

California **GARDEN**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1977

Volume 68, Number 6

Fifty Cents



..... FLORAL EVENTS.

Annual Christmas Show Premiere
"Holiday Reflections" Christmas Carolers
Thursday December 1, 1977 Majorca Room 7:30 p.m.

November 1, 8, 15, 1977 — Martha Rosenberg Flower Arrangement Classes, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Room 103; contact Mrs. Roland Hoyt — 296-2757.

..... SHOWS

November 20, 1977: San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Fall Show—13th Annual Fall Show; Open 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park; FREE.

November 26, 27, 1977: Sumi Painting Show; Majorca Room, Casa del Prado; open both days 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; FREE.

December 2, 3, 4, 1977: San Diego Floral Association Christmas Show; Majorca Room, Casa del Prado; open Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; FREE.

December 3, 4, 1977: San Diego Chapter, California Native Plant Society Sale, Casa del Prado, Patio A, Balboa Park; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days.

December 4, 1977: "Christmas in Flowerland" Bazaar at Quail Gardens Ecke Family Building, Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Garden Drive, Encinitas, CA.; open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES

by *GEORGE JAMES*

GROWING VEGETABLES in the home garden is a widely spread and usually successful practice and has increased interest in the growing of other food crops. One area of interest is the growing of fruit trees, a move which should receive more thought and planning, if it is to be successful, than the short lived vegetable planting. This article has been prepared to help those who are considering planting fruit trees.

Deciduous fruit trees, those that lose their leaves in the winter, are important producers of fruit. The most popular kinds are the apricot, apple, peach, and plum, and there are other kinds that will be discussed later in the article. Trees of these fruits came in standard size trees which need an area from 15 to 50 feet across when mature, or dwarf trees which need a space 10 to 12 feet across. Dwarf trees can be grown in tubs when there isn't a suitable location for them in the garden.

Limited Space

If the garden space is limited so that the number of varieties wanted cannot be accommodated, two, three, or four standard size trees can be planted in one hole, each tree becoming one-half, one-third, or one-quarter of the mature growth. When two trees are planted in one hole they are set in a line, three trees in a triangle, and four trees in a square, and in all cases the trees are set about a foot apart. When trees are planted in these combinations it is important that one tree doesn't grow larger than its companions and crowd and starve them. Trees that appear to be growing faster than the others should be pruned at once, rather than waiting until winter time, to keep them within their portion of the area.

Deciduous trees, either standard or dwarf, can be grown as an espalier, that is trained as a vine against a wall, fence, or trellis. An espalier can be grown where there is not room for the tree to grow in its normal configuration. It is important that the location have sun the greatest part of the day and the pruning be done with understanding so the fruit bearing wood is retained and the tree is trained to

grow within the spot allotted to it. At times it is possible to buy a fruit tree upon which several kinds of fruit have been grafted. These may be called Fruit Salad trees or Multiple Variety trees and when they are available do provide a selection of fruit in a limited space. These should be continually watched and pruned as needed to prevent one variety from outgrowing its neighbors, as with the planting of several trees in one hole.

The mild climate of the coastal area of Southern California enables us to grow many kinds of plants from all parts of the world so one might think that it would be satisfactory for deciduous fruit trees as well. Not so, for the mild winters do not provide enough cold to give many varieties the period of dormancy they need. This results in what is known as delayed foliation, an erratic opening of flowers and development of foliage and in some cases the dropping of flower buds before they open. Fruit is sometimes formed before the leaves and because it is not shaded it is sun burned, indicated by brown and corky layers on the skin of the fruit. The slow development of leaves forces the tree to use its stored food, which can weaken the tree, while if the leaves developed normally, they would be able to manufacture food and the tree would not have to use its stored food. There are interior valleys and higher elevations where the winter cold is much greater than in the coastal areas so that delayed foliation is less of a problem. There are some varieties that need less winter chilling so are better suited to the mild wintered coastal areas and these will be discussed later in this article.

Soil

Deciduous fruit trees, to bear well, should be planted where they get the sun the greatest part of the day. The ideal soil is one of a medium texture such as loam or sandy loam, and one that is four to five feet deep—not many gardens have such a soil. There are trees being grown on soils that are either lighter, sand, or heavier, clay or adobe, and on soils that are not as deep as mentioned. It is important

that the soil in which deciduous fruit trees are planted drains well; if it remains wet for long the roots will be damaged and the tree may be killed. Heavy soils, such as clay or adobe, do not drain well but sometimes the strata is thin enough so it may be dug through. If a soil that will drain is found below the strata of heavy soil it is suitable for growing deciduous fruit trees. Some gardens have a hard layer beneath the surface of their soil which stops drainage and root development. Again, if this layer is thin enough so it can be dug through, and a soil found below that will drain water away, it too can be used. When it is not practical to dig through the heavy soil or the hard layer, additional soil can be brought in and a raised area made so each tree can develop its roots above the existing garden soil and water will drain from the raised portion unto the existing soil. A planting hole in heavy soil which does not extend down to a layer of soil that drains acts as a sump and holds water, with the depth of the water increasing until it reaches the roots of the trees and they are damaged. This can happen during winters when there are heavy rains, over which we have no control, unless the soil in which the trees are growing is well-drained.

Planting

Deciduous fruit trees can be bought as bare root trees during January and February and as container grown plants the remainder of the year. Bare root trees should be planted as early as possible so they are in place when growth starts in the spring, while the trees growing in containers can be planted at any time. Holes in which bare root trees are to be planted can be excavated during the fall and back-filled with soil mixed with an organic material so



they will have settled and be ready for planting when the trees are available. Where the soil is fertile and has adequate drainage the holes need only be large enough to accept the roots of the trees in their normal position without crowding; in such cases, a hole 2 feet across and about 18 inches deep will do.

When the soil is of poor quality or where there is poor drainage, a much larger hole is needed, it should be several feet across and deep enough to extend below the hard layer or go through the clay soil. Organic matter is added to the soil to improve the texture and to increase the fertility slightly, but this does not eliminate the need of fertilizers later on. If the organic material that is to be used is an animal manure it should be well-rotted when added, or added and watered and left for at least a month before planting. This will allow decomposition of the manure to take place before the tree is planted and will avoid damage to the roots by heat that may be released by the decomposition.

Before planting the roots should be examined and any roots that have been damaged or dried, cut off, and if the ends of the main roots have not started to callus (the development of new white tissue over the ends), they should have a thin slice cut off which will encourage the growth of callus tissue. The top should also be cut back as there is usually more top than root and these need to be brought into balance if there is to be vigorous growth. Peach, apricot, and plum trees can have their trunks cut back to 2 feet above the ground, apples and pears about 3 feet, and walnuts between 5 and 6 feet above the ground. If there are side branches on the trunk that remains, they should be cut off close to

the trunk, being careful not to damage any buds that are on the trunk at the base of the branches because shoots will sprout from these that will become the primary branches of the tree, and from which the secondary branches and fruit bearing shoots will grow. Pruning at the time of planting, as has been described, not only creates a desirable balance between root and top, it also causes the primary branches to start close to the ground.

It is important that bare root trees be planted as close as is possible to the depth at which they originally grew. The original soil line is indicated by a change in color of the bark on the lower trunk, the part that grew below the ground being a lighter color than the above ground part. To be sure the tree is set to the right depth place a straight edge across the hole, resting it on the surface of the surrounding soil, and set the tree so the point where the bark color changes is at the bottom of the straight edge. In all cases, the bud union, the offset in the lower trunk, should be several inches above the soil line. If the soil is too wet when the trees are received they can be kept by heeling them in, burying their roots temporarily in moist soil, until conditions are right to plant. When planting a bare root tree, the soil should be worked around the roots—with the hands if necessary—and firmed by tamping and when the hole is full, tramp (with your feet) the surface soil to firm it before water is applied.

The same procedures can be followed when trees in containers are planted, except care must be taken not to damage the ball of earth the tree is growing in as this might damage roots and upset the growth. Container trees may not need to be pruned, although it is the writers belief that they are not pruned in most cases as hard as they should be. If the trees you plant do not appear to have been pruned as has been described, there will be no harm in cutting them further when they are transplanted.

After planting young trees should be watered, even if the soil is moist, to settle the soil around the roots and force out the excess air. This is best accomplished by building a basin around the tree and flooding it with water. During January and February, when bare root trees are planted, the weather is cool and there may be rain, so the initial irrigation will be all the tree needs for several weeks, until the soil shows signs of becoming dry. Too frequent waterings, even where the drainage is good, can keep the soil

too wet and root damage can occur. When growth has started and many leaves have formed then the water needs of the tree will increase so more frequent irrigations will be needed. As the tree grows the original basin should be enlarged so a larger area of soil is wet and the roots encouraged to grow into it.

Watering

It is not possible to describe a watering schedule for mature trees because of the difference between the soil they grow in, the size of the tree, and the weather. It has been indicated that these trees suffer if the soil in which they grow is kept continually wet, so a schedule that allows the soil to become fairly dry before the next irrigation is applied is desirable. Overwatering can be prevented if the soil is checked before irrigation by digging into it with a shovel, or by the use of a soil tube. When the soil several inches below the surface is dry, then it is time to water. It is wise to water bearing fruit trees when the fruit is starting to ripen then not again until after the crop has been picked. Irrigation at the time the fruit is partially ripe or after can cause loss of flavor.

A drip irrigation system, which can be easily installed without special tools, is available in kits from most garden supply stores. This system saves water, reduces labor, and cuts down on weed growth. A mulch should be used soon after planting, and in the following years, to save water. Cultivation is not necessary, except to remove weeds or to mix fertilizer into the soil around the tree.

This article will be continued in the January-February issue and will deal with the care of mature trees and describe the varieties that are best suited for the mild winters of coastal Southern California, or any area with a similar climate. □



SOME BIBLE PLANTS

by CHAUNCEY I. JERABEK

Reprinted from CALIFORNIA GARDEN, December-January, 1965-66
Volume 56, Number 6.

FEW PEOPLE today realize that the same plants that existed in Bible times can be found growing in our own immediate area. I should like to mention a few outstanding ones.

Cedar of Lebanon

Cedrus libani, which lived hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, is full of sacred interest. It was often referred to in the Bible and described by many writers from 1550 down to the present time. King Solomon used its fragrant, long-lasting wood to build his temple and palace. I Kings 6:36, 7:2, 5:8, 10:27, Ps. 29:5, 92:12, Isa. 2:13. Today, of the original majestic forest of Mount Lebanon, there is only a remnant of about 400 cedars left.

This cedar is an evergreen tree with horizontal spreading branches clothed in short dark to bright green needles less than an inch long. The cones which take 3 years to mature are 3 to 4 inches long. The leading shoot may be upright but is often spreading. When young, the growth and foliage of the Lebanon, Atlas, and Deodar cedars is vastly different but, with age, the growth and even the cones resemble each other. The Lebanon cedar may reach 120 feet in height. It is much sought for its handsome, fragrant wood, which has almost no knots and does not decay.

Cypress Tree

A conifer mentioned in Noah's ark is *Cupressus sempervirens*, native of southern Europe and western Asia. Gen. 6:14, Isa. 44:14, Ec. 50:10. This cypress has thick foliage with blunt scale-like leaves of a rich dark green color, and sub-globose cones on short stems. Known in this country mainly as an ornamental, even in olden times it was famous as the most durable timber in southern Europe. Ancient Greeks carved statues of their gods out of this wood. Plato directed that their laws be engraved on tablets of cypress. Temple doors of this material sometimes lasted 1000 years. A tree found in the Alps was 121 feet high and 23 feet around the trunk. Those we grow would be mere saplings compared to cypress in its native habitat.

Jerusalem Pine

Pinus halepensis was indigenous to the Mediterranean basin from Portugal to Palestine. Most authorities agree that this pine, also called the Aleppo, is the one referred to in some Biblical passages as fir. No temple of ancient Greece was complete without a setting of this tree around it. Isa. 60:13, 41:19. It was also generally used for building purposes in the Holy Land.

When young, the Aleppo is a fast-growing bush-like tree with flexuous stems that zigzag in every direction. After 20 or more years it slows down, the lower branches drop off and the top becomes flatter and more depressed. The bark is a smooth silvery gray. The slender light green needles are usually in twos, from 2½ to 3½ inches long. The polished red-brown egg-shaped cones, 4 to 5 inches long, turn gray when they open. Though a lofty tree in its native habitat, those in our area generally grow about 30 to 40 feet in the same number of years.

Myrtle

Myrtus communis is native to the hills around Jerusalem. It is a densely foliated shrub, 10 to 15 feet high, with small lustrous dark green ovate-lanceolate leaves dotted with oil glands that are fragrant when crushed. Pure white flowers, ¾ inch wide, have brush-like stamens followed by subglobose ½ inch purple-black berries. The Greek name for Myrtle means perfume. Its sweetness and fresh green beauty made it popular for decorating festive booths so that it became an emblem of peace, justice, and immortality. Even in modern days in some countries it is used in bridal bouquets to bring good luck. Myrtle is a source of perfume and of an oil for tanning leather. Zec. 1:8, Neh. 8:15, Isa. 55:13.

Laurel or Sweet-bay Tree

Laurus nobilis was originally around the East Mediterranean basin; today it is found in the hills of northern Palestine, Mount Carmel and the small valleys near Galilee where it grows 40 to 50 feet tall. These Bay trees are also found in Greek forests and in cloister gardens. The young trees when grown



Photo by Mackintosh

Bulrush, *Cyperus papyrus*. Note the three-cornered stems from which the Egyptians made their paper.

naturally have multiple trunks with perfectly round heads. The evergreen dark oblong leaves have an aromatic odor. The female trees produce purple-black berries which are crushed to obtain an oil for perfume. They belong to the same family as our Sassafras and Cinnamon. The dried leaves are used for seasoning foods.

The Roman emperors wore laurel leaves to indicate nobility and chaplets were used to crown the victors in Olympic games. Bay wreaths were also given to people of learning, from which practice comes our word "baccalaureate." As an evergreen, the tree came to stand for prosperity and for protection against misfortune. Ps. 37:35.

Almond Tree

From the eastern Mediterranean to Central Asia the *Amygdalus* or *Prunus communis* was found. Almond, the Hebrew word meaning to wake or watch, was given to this tree because it is the first to bloom or awaken from the long sleep of winter. The thought of life after death is also associated with it. Gen. 43:11, Ex. 25:33, 34, 37:19, 20, Eccle. 12:5, Jer. 1:11.

The almond is 15 to 25 feet high with rather erect young branches becoming round-headed when older. Leaves, 3 to 6 inches, are ovate-lanceolate. The pink or nearly-white flowers appear before the leaves, singly or in pairs. A velvety succulent cover-

ing encloses the hard shell with its nut kernel. Blossom, fruit, and form resemble the peach tree. In northern California the almond is grown commercially for its nuts. In our area it is only seen as an occasional ornamental. Normally I do not regard it as a long-lived tree but one was mentioned in the quarterly journal "Trees in South Africa," as being 10 feet in circumference, with a spread of 30 feet. It is claimed that the missionary, David Livingstone, proposed to Mary Moffat, later his wife, under this same almond tree in Kuruman.

A fine local specimen with a spiral trunk may be seen near Fortuna on the west side of Riviera Drive, in Crown Point.

St. John's Bread or Locust Tree

From the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea comes *Ceratonia silique*, a handsome evergreen, compact tree, with dark glossy green leathery compound leaves. The red and yellow flowers are not showy as they have no petals and grow close in on the branches. Polygamous trees bear flowers of both sexes but some are only female. The fertile flowers develop into thick, tough flat pods, 4 to 10 inches long, nearly an inch wide. When fully ripe, they are a dark brown color, filled with a sweet pulpy substance imbedded with flat uniform bony seeds. These sugar-rich pods have long been used for fattening animals and are also eaten by humans. A chocolate substitute made from them is sold in our health stores.

It is supposed that these seed pods were the locusts eaten by St. John in the wilderness. Mat. 3:4, and also the husks consumed by the Prodigal Son when feeding the swine, Luke 15:16.

Date Palm

Phoenix dactylifera, the true Date Palm, originated in Arabia, Persia, Upper Egypt and nearby countries. When young, the trees are surrounded by a mass of suckers which are lost as they grow older. Eventually the tree forms a straight slender trunk, 100 or more feet high, pointing towards Heaven. The crown is a head of rigid gray-green sharp-pointed leaves 20 feet or more long. The flowers are white and fragrant followed by oblong-ovoid fruit of deep orange color that turns brown when mature. Where these palms grow, many families subsist almost entirely on the vast quantities of dates that they gather each year. The trunks are used for posts and roof beams, the leaves for thatching, the foliage for

needles, thread, hats, mats, and baskets. Wine and sugar are also derived from palms. A branch or leaf was borne by the ancients as a symbol of victory and rejoicing. References: Rev. 7:9, Num, 33:9, Ps. 92:12, John 12:13, Judges 4:5.

The old Arbas used to say: "The Date Palms delight to have their toes in the water and their heads in the oven." The finest palm trees of the Biblical age were around Jericho and along the banks of the Jordan. For years all dates came from West Asia or North Africa. Today the finest and sweetest are grown in Coachella Valley and marketed from Thermal and Indio. There are a few scattered date palms in our county but the climate is too cool for the fruit to reach maturity, even if hand pollinated.

Olive Trees

Perhaps among the most revered trees of ancient times were the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane near Jerusalem where, according to Mat. 26:39, the Lord Jesus communed with God. Other references are Gen. 8:11 and Ex. 27:20.

Olea europaea grows to 25 feet. Of variable habit, the trunks become gnarled with age. The leaves are simple, opposite, dull gray-green above and silvery tomentose beneath. Pale yellow flowers are followed by shiny purple-black fruits that are edible when cured. Valuable oil is extracted from the flesh and seed.

Many new subdivisions use olives as accent trees; other places such as Rancho Bernardo, line the streets with them. In older residential sections many interesting and picturesque specimens can be found. The majority of these trees are seedlings. Those that produce the large fruits from which most of our canned olives and olive oil are obtained are from stock grafted with scions from cultivated species specially developed through the years.

Edible Fig

Ficus carica is the botanical name of the first fruit to be recorded in the Bible in Gen. 3:7. The fig is also mentioned in I Kings 4:25, I Sam. 25:18, Prov. 27:18.

The edible fig, a deciduous tree, is sometimes trained to a single trunk or it has multiple stems and procumbent branches. In season it is covered with large ovate 3 to 5 lobed leaves, heart-shaped at the base, with a very rough upper surface. The flowers, never conspicuous, are produced inside a pear-shaped receptacle which enlarges to become the fruit. In

some parts of the state they are an asset to the economy, where they are grown for the fresh or dried fruit market or for jam and preserves.

Paper Reed

Cyperus papyrus, also called Bulrush, is native to Northern Africa and Palestine. It grows to a height of 15 feet, with a three-cornered stalk 2 or 3 inches in diameter, topped by a brush umbel of drooping thread-like leaves. In ancient days its stems almost completely hid the swamps and rivers, forming an impassable jungle. This plant was used to make small floating rafts, mats and paper. Beginning in 750 B.C. the Egyptians made parchment by stripping off the green bark of the reeds, placing slices of the pith side by side and saturating them with gummy water. Joined under the heavy pressure, they became the dried product upon which were written many priceless manuscripts of sacred and classic literature preserved to this day. Ex. 2:3, 5, Isa. 18:2, 19:7, 58:5. This graceful and attractive foliage plant is often grown in San Diego. □



SOME COMMON SCENTS

by ROSALIE GARCIA

SCENTS ARE the most potent of memory recalls, so psychologists tell us. A whiff of perfume will recall a long lost love, a childhood tragedy or delight. A gardenia corsage will set off for me, a train of memories of summer evenings in my youth when we sat on our front porch engulfed in the perfume of the great bushes of cape jasmines, *Gardenia jasminoides*, whose white velvet blossoms glowed among the lightning bugs, and the Whip-poor-wills whistled from the woods back of us. We would sing to ukelele accompaniment and our black neighbors across the fields would respond with beautiful choruses as they picked on the "git-tars".

In these urban days of air pollution our sense of smell is so dulled or overwhelmed that we may ignore or do not plan for plants that are scented. If we do have them, they serve other purposes and we often do not value the pleasure of their fragrances. In reading the old herbals one is impressed by how much fragrance meant to our ancestors. They attributed medicinal and religious uses to fragrance. It uplifted the soul, calmed the spirit, and cured headaches. Since herbs are plants set apart for flavor, fragrance, and medicine, they were the dominant ones in castle, monastery, and cottage gardens. The symbolism, reverence, and care given to herbs is a fascinating chapter in our evolution. Nearly all herbs are scented to a degree and some are so dominantly endowed that one cannot ignore them.

The low-growing herbs like the thymes, tansy, bushy sages, marjoram, and oregano greet the nose with attention-getting demands. My favorite is a native of our backcountry, and even grows on the dry hillsides of Balboa Park but it is hard to domesticate, the Cleveland sage, *Salvia clevelandii*. Some dry, rocky section of the garden not watered much will product this beautiful blue-flowered plant that is so delicious to the nose that one is uplifted.

A common hedge of the myrtle family is very fragrant and decorative with its small, shiny, dark green leaves, the *Myrtus communis*. Its fuzzy white blossoms and blue-black berries make it a good accent

or pot plant. Crush a few of the leaves for a heady treat to clear one's head. We see all of these plants, but do we know how good they smell?

Of all the shrubs that we use for hedges or bank covers of the prostrate variety, none is more common than rosemary, *Rosmarinus officinalis*. Its wiry, woody stems and short, stubby leaves with their pungent aroma and enduring qualities made it popular as a "strewing" herb on the floors of castles and churches, then was swept up and burned which perfumed the air further. It was also twined into garlands and branches and hung on the walls for decorations. Even now a branch brought into the house casts a spell of the out-of-doors and follows one around. A sprig hung in the closet will drive the moths away or smother them with its resinous aroma. Tiny new tips in the roast send tantalizing odors throughout the house.

In contrast and equally hardy are the ancient lavenders: the common green *Lavandula dentata*, and the gray, English or *Lavandula spica* (*L. vera*) and many others, all of which have scented flowers that are used in sachets and perfumes. At midday when the blossoms are warm, they exude a fragrance that is spicy and delightful.



At our Wild Animal Park I noted a hedge of diosma, meaning divine odor, a heath-like shrub with tiny white or deep pink flowers that is decorative and a joy to pass by. A sprig in one's purse or pocket will emit a delicate perfume for days. In our climate we can have lemon verbena, *Aloysia triphylla* (*Lippia citriodora*), a graceful shrub that will reach 10 feet against a warm wall, whose leaves are so fragrant that they are used for tea and sachets. A branch in the house brings in the garden for a nosy treat.

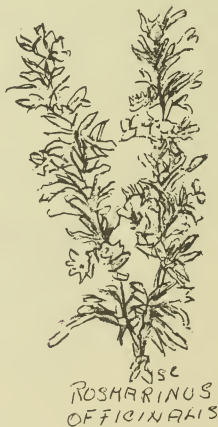
In California we do not sit outside in our gardens at night as much as we did in the South, for our evening chill discourages it, but just walk around and be almost intoxicated by the fragrance of the rather inconspicuous night-blooming jasmine *Cestrum nocturnum*, which is not really a jasmine, but the whole neighborhood is aware of it at night. It can be as overwhelming as the Southern cape jasmine.

Our common vine honeysuckle, hardy and fragrant of the *Lonicera* genus has many hybrids which are more handsome, but are no more fragrant than the wild one that seems to grow at will in our temperate climate. I have often wondered why the Highway Department has not planted honeysuckle and the night-blooming jasmine on our freeways, for it would be such a thrill to whiz by and get a whiff of them.

Scented gardens for the blind are not new, but one does not have to be blind to appreciate the many inspiring plants that have more than color and form to offer. One of our oldest cultivated plants is the rose which has had its place in song and story, ceremony and symbol in all parts of the temperate world. It is still probably the favorite flower wherever it grows. The roses introduced before 1867 are known to us as "Old Roses" and all are fragrant. In the race to get finer color, size, and blends, fragrance was almost forgotten for a time, and still many of our most beautiful ones are just beautiful and smell like nothing. But there is a trend with hybridizers to try to bring back or breed into the new roses some of the old fragrance. If one treats himself to a walk through the rose garden in Balboa Park, the big one across Park Boulevard, it is a joy to find a large planting of only fragrant new roses. There are also plantings of the old ones too. The rose has had such a long history in ceremony and symbolism that it equals the herbs. The flower girls of weddings were at first the rose girls who spread rose petals in the path of the bride so her life would be a path of roses!

On a cool spring evening one can be transported by the fragrance of our common tree, the Sweet Olive, *Pittosporum undulatum*. It so subordinates pollution fumes that one forgets there is such a thing. Annuals and perennials such as the nicotianas of the tobacco family are not much to look at, but how they fill the night with their presence! Carnations, stock, four-o'clocks, some of the lilies, and, if you can stand it, the marigold, are for sniffing.

Sometimes as I drive up C Street I often get a whiff from a small candy factory that sets off a train of recollections of Christmas as we celebrated it at home in the South. Recollections of the spiciness of baking fruit cakes, sausage making after hog killing, and an oven of baking yams, pumpkins or kershaw squashes which we would eat hot, covered with sweet butter or a big blob of heavy cream—all come rushing to me. Molasses candy for pulling and getting everything sticky, and careful watching of the divinity and fudges are happy visions. To keep us from being under foot all the time, there would be a pot of fragrant sassafras tea with slabs of ginger bread filled with black walnuts. All this going on as boughs of pine, cedars, and hollies were being put up and perfuming the house. So many delightful memories all excited by one little scent! □



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RYE IN THE KITCHEN

by ANN FOUNTAIN

I DO KEEP rye in the kitchen—though not under the sink as some of the more imaginative cooks recommend.

It all started with George. For George I made a tree. George is a little brown sparrow which I raised from an egg, and which, after two proliferative moltings, turned out to be a girl.

Because of George (who is another whole story) and what I discovered was her enthusiasm for salad, I tried to find some green things she really enjoyed, or would even eat. Birds need green food to stay healthy too. George was quite vocal about the whole thing. She liked eucalyptus leaves, but only to throw in her bathtub, and got very loud because they didn't strike her as particularly edible.

I tried lettuce because everybody likes lettuce of some kind. Do you have any idea how many kinds of lettuce there are? My refrigerator is now a branch of the local green-grocer's. I raised New Zealand spinach, one of my favorites. I pulled leaves off everything I could reach, pulled up clumps of Bermuda grass, even tried onion and garlic chives, remembering that my dog had had a puppy passion for them. I even held these delicacies for George to gorge. I even held George! Nothing doing.

I tried sprouting some of George's own seeds, thinking they would surely make tasty treats. Still nothing. I even parted with some of my own alfalfa sprouts and other people-sprouts like rye and wheat berries. Being fond of such goodies myself, I offered them all with much love and a growing desire to share. Anything.

Succumbing at last to silent desperation, I began to lose weight, which was pretty neat, but George seemed a little peaked too and that hardly seemed fair.

Finally, my desperation became no longer silent. I talked to every ornithologist type I could find a phone number for. Not to mention gardeners. The lists they gave me of "greens-for-birds" exactly matched mine, which was rather discouraging—to understate the situation.

Somebody once said that if you want the real facts, get them from the horse's mouth, or something like that. So I spent whole days sitting at the kitchen window with binoculars trying to find out what green things sparrows eat. The only things I saw them eat were the seeds I had just planted or the seeds I had not yet harvested. Of course, I may have missed something now and then, because I got carried away watching some of the other feathered migrants pillaging the bug houses. The social life was interesting, too; a little like looking through the neighbor's lighted windows at night.

Then came the day I planted annual rye grass in the yard. Two days later every sparrow in town obliterated my new green carpet before I could focus the binoculars. The lawn still looks like a mud flat, but George is happy and I'm unhappily gaining weight. My kitchen looks like a gourmet cookware shop converted to a specialty plant boutique—annual rye grass growing in every vessel. (George likes her salad young and fresh!)

Coincidentally with my discovery of George's proclivity for annual rye grass, the time was approaching for her to experience her first Christmas and I felt compelled to do something rather nice for her. That's when I made a liar out of Joyce Kilmer. I made a tree.

The recipe is easy for anyone who wants to do it. All the ingredients you need are a pine cone, some annual rye grass seed, a shallow dish, a little water, some scissors and the patience (inherent or acquired) of all gardeners.

First you find, beg, borrow or steal a dry pine cone—very dry, with all the plates, or scales open. Any size will do. Preferably, it should be exquisitely truncated in shape. Then you buy five pounds of annual rye grass seed (that's the only way to acquire the teaspoon or so of seed that you will need). With the cone upright, using a teaspoon, you sprinkle rather heavily all the seed the cone will accommodate into the open plates, gently set the cone in a shallow dish, then fill the dish with one-half to one inch of

water—and wait. Two or three days later, as the moisture soaks up into the cone, the grass will sprout, and gravity and all those things being what they are, the grass will grow upright, forming a nice, fat little Christmas tree shape, and the plates of the cone will slowly close, holding the grass tightly in place. You will have to keep an eye on the water level and replenish when necessary. And your nose will tell you when to dump the water altogether and start with fresh. If the base of the cone is a little lopsided, you can use some florist's putty to anchor it. It may take up to three weeks for the grass at the top of the cone to show up, depending on the size of the cone and absorption of moisture, but after it does show, the completed tree will last for two weeks or so more. And it would be well to have a pair of scissors handy at all times. The grass has a tendency to get longer and longer and flop over in an untidy way, so you'll have to give it a "haircut" occasionally to maintain the conical fir tree shape.

If you can liberate several pine cones, you could make a little forest of trees. They're fun to do any time and make lovely gifts any time of year, if you can figure out how to transport them. George was crazy about hers—and ate it all in less than 48 hours! □



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Photos by Robert Peterson

TABLE SETTINGS

by HELEN WOLFF

WHEN YOU set a table you are creating a picture. This is very true whether it be your own or an entry in a flower show.

The chief elements to consider in table setting are dinnerware, silverware, glassware, linen, accessories (if used), centerpiece and container in which the arrangement is held, and the room in which the table is to be set. If the table is being set for a flower show, there are requirements and limitations made by the schedule.

Color will give more character to a table setting than any other single factor. Boldness is a successful quality if used properly, with distinction being a close neighbor both in the show and home environment.

Scale is important in relationship to all appointments used. Consider the size of your cloth in relation to the table. An overhang of 12 to 15 inches is best for a seated meal and for a buffet or tea table, 19 inches is considered good proportion.

A table prepared for food service is a functional table. Therefore, functional placement is imperative to avoid a cluttered look. Divide the table into sections and make sure each section visually balances each other section.

Contrast is important to variety—although it should not be spotty but used with care.

Rhythm is gained by careful placement of china, crystal and silver.

Formal or symmetrical balance is most generally used for a formal seated dinner. The semi-formal table is styled closely after the formal table with even numbers of place settings symmetrically placed. The centerpiece and accessories are designed to permit conversation across the table.

Informal seating and buffet tables are often designed asymmetrically but must remain functional and balanced. One should avoid crowding the table appointments and include only the number of serving dishes needed. Breakfast trays should not be so crowded that self-service is



difficult. Harmony of color, texture and design is of utmost importance.

The place plate usually governs the color, pattern and quality of all other appointments chosen. With multi-colored china, single-color cloth is generally more effective. The centerpiece is often selected for some certain hue which is featured in the china as well as the design and appointments chosen.

Table coverings are varied as to type and material. A large cloth, place mats or the bare table surface might be used. Tablecloths or mats are used for formal or informal occasions, depending upon their quality and texture. Generally finer textures are used for more formal entertaining. In formal modern settings using modern dinnerware, coarser textured materials are permitted for formal use. Period styling and decor have much to do with the decision of what you will use.

Much thought must be given to the size relationship or scale of all elements used, including containers, accessories, individual blooms, and foliage. The container, flowers, fruits or other plant material must be related in texture, color and quality. Placement of the arrangement depends upon where it will be most effective in the general seating plan. A flower arrangement should be approximately one-third the length of the table. On a standard six-foot table, the arrangement should be from 20 to 24 inches for center placement proportion. Keep it low enough or airy enough that guests can see over it. Place your elbow on the table with the arm stretched upright and lean to a more or less seated position—if you can see over your finger tips, the height of the design is suitable for a seated table. The design may be different on the sides, but should always be finished on all sides.

Accessories of any type may be used as long as they are in harmony with your decorative theme.

Candlelight is elusive and magical and can do much to flatter faces. Candlelight is not used on luncheon tables except in a situation where light is absolutely necessary. This type of lighting is most effective on all dinner tables except in a modern house where special electric lighting effects are featured. On tea tables candles are used when needed. At a seated meal the flame should be

above or below eye level. Candelabras may be effectively used on many types of tables even as part of the arrangement.



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I HEARD A BIRD SINGING

by MARY ELIZABETH BAUHAN

The author is President of the Village Garden Club of La Jolla.

FROM THE time man first planted the most elementary garden, birds have played an important part in their beauty and maintenance. Depleting the insect population, scattering seed and assisting with pollination are among the practical benefits they provide, while their beauty and song lifts the spirit and brings joy to the heart.

Man has closely watched, noted their habits and made use of birds from the earliest times. Falconry was a sport in ancient Egypt and China. Classical Greek is full of bird lore. The legendary phoenix was supposedly reborn periodically from its own ashes. The Book of Numbers tells of the quail "brought forth from the sea" (probably migrating) and the Book of Job speaks of the feathered peacock and the ostrich "hardened against her young" because she laid her eggs in the dust making them vulnerable to man and beast.

Birds are the most conspicuous members of the animal kingdom, readily observed and widely distributed. The early colonists in North America found in the inexhaustible abundance of wild turkeys, heath hens, pigeons, ducks, and geese, a most important source of food in their battle for survival.

Varying species of birds are found in the United States in different geographic areas depending on climate, food supply. Breeding territories are usually the determining factors in the kinds of species of a particular region. California, with its several ecological zones, its deserts, mountains, inland valleys, and shoreline, hosts many varieties of birdlife.

San Diego County is singularly fortunate in having a wildlife preserve known as Silverwood in Wildcat Canyon near Lakeside, maintained by the Audubon Society. This extensive preserve abounds in trails for the person who enjoys hiking. The protection afforded birds and other wildlife, makes it possible to observe a variety of species not otherwise frequenting our more urban communities. Here is found our state bird, the California Quail, with its top knot that springs from the forehead and curls forward.

Roughly speaking, one way of classifying birds is according to their migratory behavior; specifically whether they do or do not migrate. The migrants make it possible for us to have a brief glimpse of those birds not ordinarily seen in our individual gardens. Traveling in groups (sometimes made up of several species) as does the cedar waxwing, or traveling singly, they pause on their way momentarily to rest and feed before reaching their destinations. A most informative booklet on this subject entitled *Migration of Birds*, has been published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Birds that reside all year in our own gardens and neighborhoods are, of course, the most familiar. While we, who are urban dwellers do not think that the list is very long, it is surprising how many different types there are if we take the time to count them. In my own garden I have several kinds of sparrows including the western white crown and the house sparrow. The house finch with its rosy breast and an occasional warbler, the mocking bird that sings to me in the morning and at night or other times too if so inclined, are often seen. Other visitors include the western bluejay that scolds and demands attention, the morning dove with its soft cooing, the starling that is always looking for a handout and last, but not least, the humming bird that loves several of my tubular flowers.

Attracting birds may be accomplished in several ways. Certainly one of the easiest and least expensive, and I must add most appreciated, is the bird bath. Birds must be able to drink fresh water. Providing shelter in trees, shrubs, and vines is another essential. All kinds of berried trees and shrubs, such as pyracanthus and cotoneaster, are an added attraction, and of course, flowers themselves for their nectar. Bird feeders come in many sizes and designs according to the birds you wish to attract. They appreciate whatever you make available, and in their own way they thank you with their singing and friendly chatter. □

LAUREL SUMAC

by HELEN CHAMLEE

IN OPEN brushlands, particularly in the sage scrub, the sumacs are the largest plants on the scene—usually twice as high as surrounding shrubs.

In a community consisting mainly of small-leaved shrubs such as chamise, sagebrush, buckwheat, black sage, and encelia, the lanceolate folded leaves of the sumac are notable. The sumac's handsome foliage is colorful, with red-margined leaves on red branchlets. New leaves, during the active growing season, are rose-red.

The sumac naturally becomes a large rounded mound, up to ten feet tall and fifteen feet broad at the base. It is a shrub of many trunks. Individual trunks are short-lived (perhaps ten years or less) but continual suckering from the base keeps new ones coming along.

Flowers are only so-so, being minute and creamy white. However, borne in large cone-shaped clusters at the tips of the branchlets, they put on quite a show in early summer. These flowers may or may not be perfect, so not every plant will bear fruit. When berries do form, they are pinhead size and not showy, but much relished by birds. I have seen whole flocks of bushtits or yellow-rumped warblers disappear in a sumac bush, fussing around in there for long periods.

In fall the sumac is readily distinguished by the dry black or brown flower or fruit clusters. Since the birds scatter sumac seeds far and wide, it is a plant that might just come to you out of the blue, as it were. Young plants have bright red leaves and stems, and grow rapidly.

As a garden subject the sumac has drawbacks, but it is worth considering for certain situations. In a large garden where it can stand alone it is excellent; fast growing, fairly colorful with its red-tipped branchlets in spring and cream-white flowers in summer, tolerant of drought and resistant to pests. With its wide-spreading roots it is helpful in preventing erosion. Then there are all those birds.

But; two buts, as a matter of fact.

For one thing, laurel sumac, a close relative of poison oak, contains to a lesser extent the same

chemical which causes that plant to be unwelcome. Exceptionally sensitive people can suffer the same miserable affliction as they get from poison oak. I speak from experience. (I also have many laurel sumacs on my property, but have learned how to coexist with them. I don't even try to coexist with poison oak—it's much more powerful than the sumac.)

Then there is the matter of fire.

Small or large branches suddenly die, drying out but remaining upright. This material almost asks to be burned. It should, of course, be removed, and the whole plant kept thinned out to prevent buildup of excessive woody growth. Sumac leaves dry out quickly in the face of fire and the plant burns fast and furiously. Branches crackle and snap, sending burning embers flying.

It need not be a hazard. When properly cared for and carefully thinned, a laurel sumac, with its aromatic, red-tinged foliage, can be a distinctive asset to a garden that has enough space for it. □



Laurel sumac is ubiquitous within 20-30 miles of the Southern California Coast from Santa Barbara south into Baja California. It is quite susceptible to heavy frost and it has been said that where sumac freezes back in winter the climate is unsuitable for lemons.

THE EXOTIC HOYA

by LOIS DONAHUE

Lois Donahue has been an avid gardener for many years and is now specializing in unusual potted plants. She is a past president of the Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society and has long been active in the San Diego Floral Association.

WHEN I was a little girl, my mother had a favorite plant which she called “waxen hoyas.” As is customary, I grew up and had my own garden. Before long, I discovered that there were other things to grow than green beans and zinnias and there were fascinating books and magazines about plants. From these books I discovered *Hoya carnosa*, the plant of my childhood. Full of importance, I dazzled my mother with the news that her “waxen hoyas” in reality was *Hoya carnosa*. I was rewarded with a fishy stare and to the day she died, that plant was a “waxen hoyas.” So much for a child trying to teach a parent.

After moving to an area near the bay, I acquired my first *Hoya carnosa*. It, like subsequent hoyas, grew in a container, in a semi-shaded area, under lath. I kept it moist but seldom fed it. It grew and grew and finally succumbed, I believe, because of my efforts to move and re-arrange it. In my yard at least, hoyas have a habit of flinging themselves at the world in reckless abandon and grasping in passionate embrace, anything they encounter—anything except the trellis I’ve placed for their special benefit. In contrast, I know one hoyas that sits on a mantel in a beautifully appointed room, and true to its surroundings, reclines in ladylike elegance and restraint. However, this hoyas may get some judicious pruning that I don’t know about.

I have been urged many times to add *Hoya compacta* to my collection, but as Sunset Western Garden book says, “it looks like it had just undergone a severe case of aphids.” To me, it’s an unsightly looking plant and I don’t want to have it around.

H. longifolia shepherdii, with its long, narrow green leaves is often called the string bean hoyas. It stays small which makes it a nice house plant. It has tiny white flowers with a pungent odor. They grow in small clusters and do not form a ball like the *H. carnosa*. Another of my favorites is *H. bella*. Mine hangs under lath by a south fence. Being rather tender, it languished there for two years before

deciding that was going to be home, so it began to grow. Now it has a spread of 36 inches in a 6 inch pot. In the summer it is almost completely covered with clusters of tiny, very pale pink flowers with the typical star in the center.

H. nervosum (the plant doesn’t appear nervous to me) has leaves with a definite white veining pattern. This one seems to need more humidity than I can give it, because it’s been a slow grower—not that any of them are rapid. The hummingbird enclosure in the San Diego Zoo has a big lush basket of it, and that is quite a humid area.

H. cinnamomifolia has veined leaves also, but a more rounded shape than *H. nervosum* and a little more reddish color. Unfortunately, mine has never bloomed, so I don’t know if the flower has a cinnamon odor.

Another tiny plant needing lots of humidity is *H. minima*. The leaves are round and about the size of a dime. It makes an enchanting basket plant, especially in bloom because the flowers not only are tiny, but of a greenish tinge. It is also good in a terrarium.

H. lacunosa also has small leaves and is very touchy about cold weather. I almost lost mine this past winter. Come spring I had a basket of brown sticks with a tiny green area in the center. After carefully trimming out the debris, these green sections were placed in a propagating box which was just what they wanted. They rooted readily, and soon put out new leaves. *H. lacunosa* flowers have the same pungent odor as *H. longifolia*.

One of the most interesting and difficult to grow is *H. kerrii* or sweetheart hoyas. The leaves are about the size of a lady’s palm and are slightly indented at the stem, giving them the appearance of a plump little heart. The flowers have a pale orange cast, the petal tips curve back under and instead of the typical star in the center, they have five little chocolate spots, looking like someone had placed them there with a cake decorator. After the usual lengthy wait, my plant shot up to the eaves of the

house, and there in the sunshine, up where I can barely see them, are scads of blossoms.

Hoya purpureo-fusca, 'Hawaiian Purple', has beautiful dark red flowers in the typical ball cluster of *H. carnosa*. The leaves have a silvery patterned overlay. Whatever you do, don't remove the nub or spur from which the flowers emerge because that nub produces bloom year after year and of course elongates with each successive bloom. I keep my hoyas moderately moist, easing up somewhat during the winter. They don't get much fertilizer and I'm almost afraid to give them anymore, the way they grow now. A moderately high nitrogen fertilizer applied in early spring, followed by a hibloom type should keep them happy. Hoyas seem to bloom better if slightly pot-bound. They need lots of light but only filtered sun. They are quite brittle so care is urged when training them around a trellis. Being in the milkweed family, they exude a milky substance when a stem is broken, which is very sticky and hard to wash off.

This is just a small part of my collection and if you have room for only one hoyo, I would advise the old faithful, *H. carnosa*. The flowers in the fascinating ball shape are a lovely, delicate, furry pink and the leaves are a nice green. There is almost no leaf drop with this plant. Hoyas can be grown in the house, but why deny plant or person the opportunity to be outside in a mild climate. □

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SUCCULENTS FOR BOUQUETS

by KATHERINE MACDONALD

as told to Betty Wollrich

Katherine Macdonald is Vice-President of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society

ONE OF today's exciting and innovative uses of succulent plant material, is its incorporation in bouquets, corsages, and imaginative arrangements, especially as applied to weddings. This application of succulent plant, leaf, and floral material can be highly decorative and sophisticated. At a time when drought conditions face us, our thoughts turn to plants less dependent on water. It is a delight to see what can be designed with relatively common succulent garden plants.

Table arrangements and monochromatic corsages of succulents are familiar. However, there is an untapped source of high fashion and color to be found in succulents. Shades range from powdery white of dudleyas and cotedledons through blues of senecios, yellows, and oranges of *Sedum adolphi* and aloes to the crimson and garnet tones of *Crassula 'Flame'* and sun-grown *Sedum guatemalense*. Crinkled, plump, or velvety leaves offer a broad range for creative design.

This plant material—and it should be stressed that blossoms alone are not necessary—may be assembled as much as three weeks in advance and still have a crisp appearance, and look as “fresh as the day they were made.” The entire plant—as in dudleyas and echeverias—may be used as well as leaves, stems, and blooms. The finished bouquets may be stored in plastic bags, which should be kept closed. Flowers of many succulents tend to be insignificant so that the leaves, leafy stems, and rosettes are much more effective.

Bouquets and corsages are made in a standard professional manner. Wiring is a special factor, however, as these plants are frequently very delicate and fragile. Mrs. Macdonald used, where possible, plant stems $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Number 20 wire, slant cut, was inserted in the stem, then number 26 wire was wrapped around the stem and wrapped with floral tape. A wire is run up the stems to give added strength and molding qualities. A “building” wire was wrapped on, covered with floral tape. Care should be taken in the selection of floral tape colors.

Mrs. Macdonald prefers an apple-green tape which seems to fade into the soft tones of the succulents.

Although succulent material is long-lasting, it is frequently brittle and easily broken—leaflets drop off, stems snap—so much care in handling must be used in this initial step. Also, many plants, particularly the white ones, have a “bloom” or “powder” that should not be touched. Be cautious not to sprinkle water or wet these leaves as the silvery powder will rub off and the leaf will be disfigured.

Satin-backed ribbon is most compatible with these plants as it appears to reflect the general aspect of the plants themselves. Usually plant rosettes should be the center of interest, surrounded by buds or partial plants to enhance the beauty and color. These bouquets were made in two parts. A large rosette of ribbon was made and into each loop was laid a wired and stem-wrapped “flower.” A second section was made in a drape or cascading effect—either with shower ribbons or curving stems such as *Portulacaria afra* (Elephant's trunk bush). As succulent material is inherently juicy, extra ribbon bows across the back afford gown protection. Stems that show or contact the gown should be wrapped in satin ribbon.

Close attention to the selection of ribbon further enriches the color of these designs. Satin-backed velvet ribbon is perfect for those plants with “bloom.” Many echeverias are touched with rose-pink edges. *Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum'* has lovely combinations of deep garnet or burgundy with fresh green. Ribbons may be patterned. They should augment rather than overpower.

Corsages are made basically as florists' corsages but more care must be used as it is so very easy to flip off a petal or leaf. Wire as for lily-of-the-valley or other fragile flowers.

Other floral decorations that are readily made days ahead of time are topiary trees and standing tree cones. Designs of rosettes and leaves can be hairpinned to styrofoam forms. Bases of shell, wood, rock, or other material may be used—just glue your

succulents on with a white glue. With misting, I have kept these looking bright for months. Patterns of color and texture can be developed with accents of ribbon bows, tulle tufts, or small figures. These designs are fun for all occasions with Jack-'o-Lanterns for Halloween and decorative trees and wreaths for Christmas. There is such a range of jewel colors to be used. Let your imagination run rampant. And remember, misting now and then will keep them fresh and bright for weeks.

Instead of basket arrangements, try “drippy” plants on stands. *Ceropegias* (Rosary vine), *Senecio rowleyanus* (string of pearls), and other senecios are particularly effective. Many of the *Rhipsalis* family present a lacey froth of green.

Specific material successfully used was:

- Aeonium arboreum* v. ‘Atropurpureum’, with green ribbon.
- Crassula* ‘Flame’, *Sedum guatemalense*, with patterned red and green ribbon.
- Sedum adolphii*, with orange velvet ribbon.
- Senecio serpens* (blue), *Pachyveria* sp., with blue and pink ribbons.

- White dudleya, *Oscularia deltoides* hyb, *Echeveria peacockii* miniature, with white velvet ribbon—most elegant for a bridal bouquet.

- Cotyledon orbiculata*, *Sedum pachyphyllum*, with light sage green ribbon.

- Echeveria* sp., green aeonium buds, *Portulacaria afra* streamers, with green and pink ribbons.

A bonus aspect of this use of succulents is that they will last—and last—and last. And you do not have to keep them in the refrigerator. After several weeks a few fine stem roots might appear. This points to another phase of the usefulness of succulents in gift arrangements or bridal flowers. For the bride, instead of throwing her bouquet away—or drying it—she needs only to return from her honeymoon and plant her bouquet in windowsill pots or garden. Wedding memories need never fade as wedding mementos become living things—cherished as blooming plants and passed on to friends and loved ones. □



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LEAFIN' THRU

The two books reviewed below have been written by members of the San Diego Floral Association.

ORIENTAL GARDENS IN AMERICA – A Visitor's Guide, by Dorothy Loa McFadden; 249 pages; \$15.95.

This is another outstanding book. It is not the usual guide book.

The book is divided into two parts. In the first section there are four chapters giving a short history of early Oriental gardens. The author has a gifted style that makes these chapters come to life. "Gardens of Early China" transports you back in time so that you enjoy those gardens and savor their solitude. In "Traditional Gardens of Japan" her background on the different types, and some explanation of the symbolism prepares you for their full enjoyment. "A garden is the purest of human pleasures" a quotation from Emperor Babur, founder of the Mongol Dynasty gives one a hint of mystic in "Formal Gardens of India." Mrs. McFadden evokes romance and beauty in the chapter entitled "Enchanted Gardens of Persia."

In part two she describes in detail over 100 gardens in the continental United States and Hawaii. There are excellent photographs of every garden with eight full page color plates in the center of the book. Addresses with careful instructions on how to reach each garden, the hours they are open, and fees, if any, are listed at the end of each description. As an added convenience for the reader, the last page of the book lists the cities in which the gardens are located.

This is a book I highly recommend to pack in your suitcase or enjoy sitting by your fireside.

— Allethe Macdonald

BEGONIA PORTRAITS, by Alice M. Clark; 158 pages, \$25.00

Exquisitely beautiful are the only words to me that describes this book of Begonia Portraits. From the time you take it into your hands and see on a white cover the first of the author's paintings in

beautiful color until you close it, you revel in its elegant beauty.

However, beauty is only one part of this exceptional book. Alice M. Clark is a recognized authority on begonias, having had a begonia named for her, *Begonia Alice-Clarkae* Ziesenth., in 1976.

Each of the 41 color plates and 26 black and white full page illustrations were done by the author. The excellent color quality of the reproductions is a tremendous asset since her paintings faithfully depict the delicate colors of the begonia plants.

A full page description of each plant is botanically precise, yet delightfully portrayed. All plants are correctly named according to Nomenclature Code.

This gallery of begonia portraits was written as a legacy to her grandchildren in which every one can share.

— Allethe Macdonald

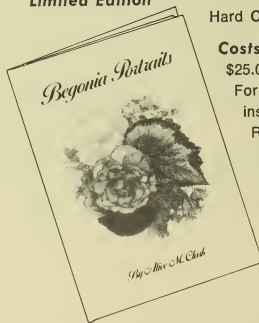
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By Alice M. Clark

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- 25 line drawings
- San Diego horticulturists
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3634 Jennings Street
San Diego, Ca., 92106

Both of these books as well as *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions* by Roland Stewart Hoyt (\$10.00), are available in the San Diego Floral Association Office, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. 92101.

NOW IS THE TIME

compiled by PENNY BUNKER

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

- ✓ to clean your plants of all dead leaves and wood.
- ✓ to replace any soil or mulch washed away by rains or watering.
- ✓ to top dress with a favorite mulch all around your plants.
- ✓ to feed lightly.
- ✓ to allow tuberous begonias to go dormant.
- ✓ to spray for mildew and any pests.

BONSAI

Herbert Markowitz

- ✓ to cut down the amount of watering; particularly be careful with deciduous trees. Don't overwater. Don't water trees in freezing areas.
- ✓ to not transplant any trees.
- ✓ to remove brown needles on pines, leaves from deciduous trees.
- ✓ to keep deciduous trees in a cool, shady place—out of bright sunlight.
- ✓ to trim pine needles.
- ✓ to consider grafting conifers.
- ✓ to withhold fertilizer.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

Verna Pasek

- ✓ to give a low nitrogen feeding.
- ✓ to watch watering—many plants are resting at this time; too much water will cause rot damage.
- ✓ to make cuttings of succulents. Use the lovely red ones in a living wreath for Christmas.
- ✓ to use crassulas and echeverias for Christmas gifts—pot in a pretty bowl.
- ✓ to make plans for protection of tender cactus and succulents in case of heavy rains or cooler weather.
- ✓ to check for insects and such pests as scale and mealy bugs.

CAMELLIAS

Benjamin Berry

- ✓ to keep plants clean—pick up all fallen blooms and petals to combat any possible infestation of petal blight.

- ✓ to continue feeding with a low nitrogen fertilizer to improve quality of bloom.
- ✓ to maintain good humidity—mist on dry hot days but only in late afternoon to keep from burning leaves.
- ✓ to maintain a regular spray program, particularly against the looper worms. Use Chlorodane dust under and around base of plants to discourage leaf beetles.
- ✓ to start some grafting in December.
- ✓ to keep up disbudding as new buds will appear to replace those twisted off earlier.
- ✓ to select new plants while in bloom.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

- ✓ to allow plants to go dormant by withholding water and fertilizer.
- ✓ to cut old stalks that have died and are brown to about twelve inches from ground.
- ✓ to allow tubers to harden off by leaving in the ground, unless rains are heavy and ground has poor drainage, then lift the clumps.
- ✓ to allow clumps to dry for a few hours before placing in storage.
- ✓ to leave one eye in each division if dividing tubers before storage. Apply soil sulphur to any cuts, and store in vermiculite or other medium in a protected place.
- ✓ to tag each tuber as you place it in storage.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Mary & Warren Kelly

- ✓ to allow your plants a resting period, but do not allow soil to remain dry for any prolonged time.
- ✓ to protect plants from wind and weather; protect from any heavy rains.
- ✓ to give last feeding of year before first of December.
- ✓ to check for snails and slugs.

FERNS

Ray Sodomka

- ✓ to water plants if it does not rain—check any hidden plants if rain has not reached them.
- ✓ to be alert for insects.

- ✓ to fertilize with a more diluted mixture.
- ✓ to plant spore.
- ✓ to protect plants at night in frost areas; may be covered with newspaper, old sheets, or placed in garage.

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

- ✓ to cut back and take cuttings in frost free areas.
- ✓ to allow plants to go dormant where there is danger of frost.
- ✓ to reduce or stop fertilizing; allow plants to rest.
- ✓ to reduce water by about 50 per cent, but don't allow to dry out.
- ✓ to protect exposed plants from frost.
- ✓ to watch for insects, molds, and fungus in warm areas.

GERANIUMS

Phil Bush

- ✓ to feed very lightly.
- ✓ to continue bait for snails and slugs.
- ✓ to cut back one half (one side) of plant until new growth appears, then cut back other side. Never drastically cut entire plant at one time.
- ✓ to water carefully—protect from too much rain.
- ✓ to protect from frost if temperatures fall below 28 degrees.

IRIS

- ✓ to clean up bed from dead leaves and debris; aphids can winter-over under same.
- ✓ to spray for any insects and disease.
- ✓ to move Pacific Coast Natives; this probably would be late December. Water well until they are established.
- ✓ to plant bulbous iris for spring beauty. These include Dutch, English, and Spanish as well as the reticulata types.
- ✓ to feed the Japanese and Louisianas with liquid fish or acid fertilizer.
- ✓ to set up a good watering program; Japanese and Louisianas like a wet swamp-like condition. Spurias and other beardless like it moist but not wet. Bearded iris need alternate soaking and drying to force root growth.

ROSES

Dee Thorson

- ✓ to give last feeding of dry fertilizer.
- ✓ to allow bushes to achieve optimum growth.
- ✓ to continue use of Parnon or Benlate for mildew control, and Acti-Dionne for rust control.
- ✓ to foliar feed bi-weekly until temperatures drop and growth is retarded.

- ✓ to start withholding water gradually (in December), but do not allow soil to become dry.
- ✓ to prepare beds for bare-root roses—available locally in late December and in January or earlier by mail order.

ORCHIDS

Lois Donahue

- ✓ to clean off greenhouse glass—shorter days and dirty or painted glass cuts down on much needed light.
- ✓ to watch for new spikes and stake them carefully as they develop.
- ✓ to feed cymbidiums a 10–30–20 fertilizer.
- ✓ to keep snail bait out—new Sluggeta is safe for orchids.
- ✓ to continue light feedings for phals and cyps—don't let them dry out.
- ✓ to continue using 18–18–18 formula on cattleyas.
- ✓ to repot those plants that have finished blooming if they have leads with roots. Otherwise wait until January or February.

VEGETABLES

George James

- ✓ to set plants of lettuce, celery, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussels sprouts.
- ✓ to prepare to plant after Christmas plants of asparagus, artichoke, cane berries, rhubarb, strawberries.
- ✓ to realize that cooler weather, shorter days, and the possibility of rain make the planting of vegetable seeds out of doors uncertain at this time of year.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

- ✓ to continue to plant winter annuals and perennials.
- ✓ to still plant bulbs for spring bloom.
- ✓ to plant all types of evergreens, natal plum, junipers, small pines, holly and berry bushes.
- ✓ to protect poinsettias from wind; tie securely.
- ✓ to prune established evergreens in mid-December; use greens for Christmas trim.
- ✓ to feed birds-of-paradise with cottonseed meal followed by deep watering.
- ✓ to do thorough cleanup of garden—do not let up on spraying for insects. Aphids, whitefly, leafhoppers, etc., are still present. Snails, slugs, sowbugs, and many other garden pests will not be able to use debris as hiding places or for breeding.

THE POINSETTIA STORY

by BETTY MACKINTOSH

Reprinted from CALIFORNIA GARDEN, December-January, 1965-66
Volume 56, Number 6.

OUR FIRST botanical records of the poinsettia were made less than one hundred and fifty years ago. Since that time, with the considerable assistance of horticulturists, the poinsettia has made the transition from a quiet life on the warm moist hillsides of southwestern Mexico, to the floral spotlight at Christmas in all the northern hemisphere.

From the very beginning it seemed to be a flower with a destiny. Its colors, long before the birth of Christ, had become symbolic: red for warmth, light, friendliness and life itself; green for the continuance or renewal of life. Primitive people associated these colors with their celebration of the return of the sun after the winter solstice. It was at this time of the year, the shortest days, that the natives of Mexico found the poinsettia blossoming in the tropical deciduous forest areas.

When the Spaniards arrived they found extensive gardens for food, medical, and ornamental plants, and even a systematic nomenclature had already been established. The poinsettia's name in Nahuatl (Aztec) was *Cuitla-xochitl*, the last part meaning flowering plant. Phil Clark in *A Guide to Mexican Flora*, translates the whole word as "flower that fades."

The early Spaniards called all flowers *Rosas*, but the Christianized people of Mexico gave the poinsettia the name *Flor de Nochebuena* or Flower of Christmas Eve, and used it traditionally in the Nativity celebration. Other Spanish names are seasonal or descriptive: *Flores de Pascua* (3-day or longer fiesta of the Church), *Rosa del Pastor* (Shepherd), *Flor de Fuego* (fire), *Hojas* (leaves) of *Fuego*.

Joseph Henry Jackson's booklet, "The Christmas Flower," tells the story of the discouraged padre who never fully succeeded in converting his Indian flock until the offering of roadside leaves by the poorest little boy was miraculously turned into brilliant red stars.

Another legend, by Lucian M. Lewis in Vol. III of "Poinsettias," a San Diego periodical edited by Grace Conroe, credits the poinsettia's origin to the Aztec maid:

"From whose broken heart fell drops of blood
Showering earth with tiny crimson flood,
Straightway those scarlet drops rooted and grew
Into a flower such as man never knew.

Helen O'Gorman, in "Mexican Flowering Trees and Plants," and Paul C. Standley, "Ancient Mexican Gardens," describe the Indians as having other than decorative uses for the poinsettia. From the red bracts a dye was made and also an extract to increase the milk production (psychological?) of nursing mothers. The leaves served as a poultice for erysipelas and skin infections; the milky juice as a depilatory. Mrs. O'Gorman describes this flower as being much cultivated in southern Mexico for formal plantings and in the smallest Indian gardens, singly and in hedgerows to the height of 20 feet. In the blossoming season huge scarlet bunches of cut poinsettias are brought to the early market by the natives.

This may have been what impressed Dr. Joel R. Poinsett when he went to Mexico as the first U.S. Minister in 1825. He foresaw that, if the poinsettia could be made to grow outside of its native habitat, it would become a universal symbol of Christmas.

Dr. Poinsett was a statesman—Congressman, presidential envoy, Mexican Ambassador, and later Secretary of War. Born of a French Huguenot family in Charleston, S.C., he was educated in Connecticut, England and Scotland in medicine, military science, and law. He was interested in horticulture and had greenhouses of his own, to which he sent the red Mexican flower. He sent it also to a botanist named Buist, in Philadelphia, who believed it to be a new species of *Euphorbia*, and named it *E. Poinsettiana* (publ. 1828). In the next few years Dr. Poinsett grew it, distributed it to his friends and publicized it. Then in 1834 Otto and Dietrich, cataloging the herbarium of the German botanist Karl Willdenow (who died in 1812) found the same plant. Whether Willdenow had named it or whether it was named at this time is not clear, but Willdenow was recognized

as the earlier discoverer and the name *Euphorbia pulcherrima* Willdenow (the most beautiful Euphorbia) superceded *E. Poinsettiana* Buist. But the flower had already become known as the poinsettia, so in common parlance, poinsettia it remained; and who knows, the botanists may still come back to that name. Robert L. Dressler at the Missouri Botanical Garden has found it to have a different chromosome structure than the rest of the genus Euphorbia. He believes it should be a separate genus of the family Euphorbiaceae, and calls it *Poinsettia pulcherrima* (MBG Annuals, V. 48 pp. 320-40). It has fulfilled Dr. Poinsett's dream in spite of the fact that it has remained sensitive to cold. □

The Golden Bough

by SHARON SIEGAN

EVERYONE KNOWS about Mistletoe—that it is a pleasing parasite, when hanging anywhere, particularly overhead, is an invitation to kiss.

But did you also know that mistletoe is the Golden Bough? It may well have been named for its trait of turning a golden color after cutting. But certainly its use as a divining rod for gold was consistent with the name.

Apparently it happened because of mistletoe's strong affinity for growing on oak trees. Oaks were regarded as sacred by the Aryans, who associated them with their Thunder God. They believed that Oaks were lightning targets, viewing mistletoe as evidence of their having been struck. With this assumption they easily concluded that a magical fire (the lightning, compressed) was stored inside mistletoe. So mistletoe was a natural choice for seeking out that fiery metal, gold.

based on The Golden Bough
by Sir James G. Frazer



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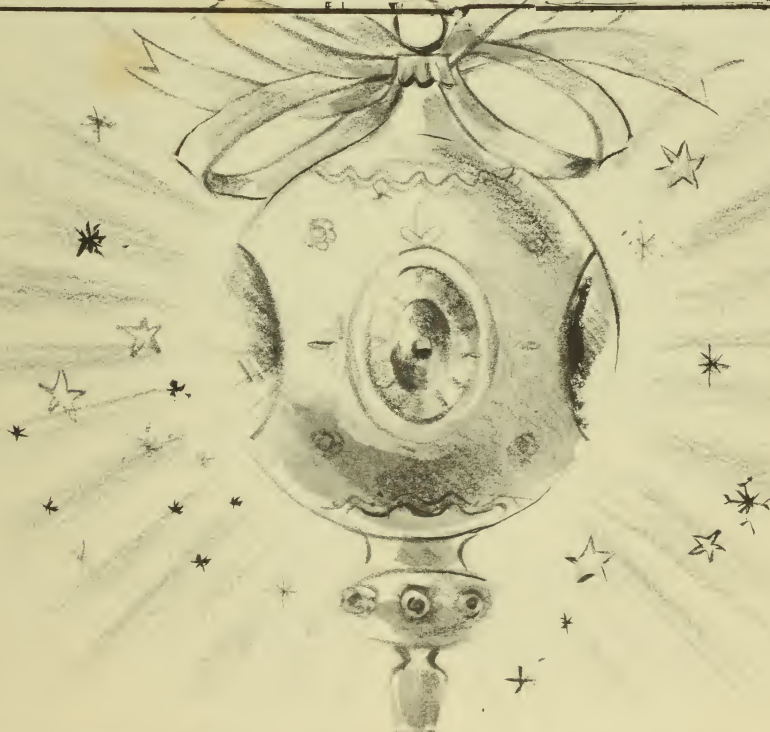
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